(b) if so, the time schedule to start production of the same and to introduce in the Indian Air Force;

(c) whether the Indian Air Force is agreeable to the proposal; and

(d) the details of the stop-gap arrangements made by Governments till they are introduced in the IAF?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No. Sir.

(c) All aspects of the project are discussed with IAF.

(d) Considering the immediate operational requirements of the IAF, programmes have already been taken up for upgradation of the existing fighter aircraft.

AJT for IAF

2731. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering proposals to acquire Advance Jet Trainers (AJT) for the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government on the subject with details of the offers made by different manufacturing countries including costs and delivery time schedule; and

(c) how long will it take to provide them to our Air Force approximately?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Technical evaluation of the proposals has been completed, and negotiations on other relevant issues are in progress.